



STANDARDS HANDBOOK

FCA

FANCY GUPPY ASSOCIATION

THE F. G. A. STANDARDS HANDBOOK AND BREEDERS GUIDE

"WE LEAD THE WAY"

This Handbook is expected to be of the greatest assistance to our Breeders and Judges; to the former in selecting his specimens for breeding and exhibition, and to the latter when they are on the show-bench, as a guide to the selection of the winners of top-line awards.

The quality of F.G.A. show Guppies is already so high that Judges are finding it difficult to determine the order of placing the first several fishes for award at major shows, and it is now evident that when our principal breeders get their various lines established, and size and quality are still further improved, the competition will be very keen indeed. This is what we are all working and hoping for:- closer competition in bigger classes of better Guppies.

In fact, the "Aims and Objects" of our Association can be summed up completely in these five words :-

BIGGER, BRIGHTER AND BETTER GUPPIES !!!

Chas. W. MacRae.

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FOREWORD

By W. G. PHILLIPS Esq. , President of the F.G.A.

The following Show Standard illustrations are shown Standards size, to impress upon the minds of all concerned, the minimum size of the ideal Show Guppy.

Whilst some of the Varieties are comparatively new to Guppy breeders in this country, they have been very popular in America for some considerable time, and it is only through the efforts of the **FANCY GUPPY ASSOCIATION** that these types are now being catered for in this country.

In drawing up these Standards the Committee sought the views of many Judges and Breeders, and the biological possibilities have been taken into account.

Every breeder, and Judges in particular, should get the outline and characteristics of each fish so impressed on their minds that this booklet may only be needed for reference.

The pointing system is one which has passed the test of time, and gives each characteristic equal value to achieve the ideal.

There are, of course, several other types of Guppy not included, - some imaginary, and others lacking in true-breeding characteristics. The types shown in this booklet have been produced solely for the benefit of those interested in the American types of Guppy, and represent as far as humanly possible outlines of World Champions, with perhaps a slight margin of refinement to aim for. In cases where it was not possible to see clearly the exact shape of a particular fin, (females in this case) then live specimens were employed so as to conform as nearly as possible to the natural shapes and position of the particular fin in question.

W. G. P.

**FOUNDER OFFICERS and MEMBERS
of the
FANCY GUPPY ASSOCIATION, 1960**

Hon. President: **W. G. PHILLIPS Esq.**

LANCS SOCIETY

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Vice-Chairman	Mrs. C. Kelly
Hon. Secretary	Mr. J. Allen
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Show Secretary	Mr. F. Whitham
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Mr. F. Campbell		Mr. S. Gordon			

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63 Colne Road, BURNLEY, Lancs.

Midlands Area Secretary: Mrs. E. L. Wootton,
51, Villiers St., Dresden, Longton,
STOKE-on-TRENT, Staffs.

Southern Area Secretary: Mrs. C. S. Hale,
22 Watford Road, RADLETT, Herts.

All the line drawings by T. R. HALE.

MALES, ALL VARIETIES

BODY LENGTH should be $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches or more, from tip of nose to the end of Caudal peduncle.

BODY DEPTH at deepest part should be one-quarter of body length.

CAUDAL LENGTH is taken from where upper and lower margins of fin join the body, just in front of peduncle.

CAUDAL DEPTH or width, is taken at widest part.

DORSAL LENGTH is taken from base to tip of fin.

CONDITION - Fish should be alert, good deportment, with all fins spread and free from damage.

-----O-O-O-----

MALE BASIC BODY COLOURS

GREY - Colour of the wild Guppy.

GOLD - A buttercup yellow, which should extend into Caudal and Dorsal fins.

GOLDLACED or **BRONZE** - All scales edged with black. Caudal and Dorsal fins black.

ALBINO - Must have pink eyes, and be devoid of all black. Other colours are allowed on the body and fins.

-----O-O-O-----

COLOURS on body and fins should be varied and brilliant.

SELF-COLOUR - Of ONE intense colour on Caudal and Dorsal i.e. **RED**: **GREEN**: **BLUE**: **BLACK** etc.

FEMALES, ALL VARIETIES

BODY LENGTH should be 2 inches or more, from tip of nose to the end of Caudal peduncle.

BODY DEPTH at deepest part should be approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

CONDITION - Fish should be alert, good deportment, with all fins spread and free from damage.

COLOURS on fins should be varied and brilliant.

SELF-COLOUR - Where the colour on Caudal, Dorsal XXXXXXXXXX is solely one colour.

-----O-O-O-----

FEMALE BASIC BODY COLOURS

These are the same in all respects as for the Males.

GOLD FEMALES should show no colour in fins except buttercup.

GOLDLACED FEMALES should show no colour in fins except black.

VEILTAIL FEMALES should show no colour whatever in fins, when exhibited as Grey Females.

-----O-O-O-----

POINTING SYSTEM

As applied to Males and Females, Single Fish.

BODY	20
CAUDAL FIN	20
DORSAL FIN	20
COLOUR	20
CONDITION & DEPORTMENT	20

TOTAL	100
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COLOUR CLASSES

At all Open Shows there will be a Colour Class, for Males and Females in one class. If entries are sufficient, separate Classes may be made.

The object is to encourage breeders who may have a colourful experimental strain not yet fixed as to finnage, and which otherwise could not be shown.

The winning entries are selected and pointed without regard to finnage shape or type, so long as the fins are regular and without damage, and the fish look evenly balanced. Sixty points are allocated for colour alone, giving excellent opportunities to small but brilliant fishes, or those with an attractive colour pattern but no particular finnage type.

COLOUR CLASS POINTING

Single Fish

BODY COLOUR	20
CAUDAL COLOUR	20
DORSAL COLOUR	20
BODY & FINS	20
CONDITION & DEPORTMENT	20
TOTAL	100

-----o-o-o-----

THE BREEDERS CLASSES

A Breeders Class entry may consist of four matched Males, four matched Females, or two matched pairs, benched in a 40-oz Standard jar. In the event of equal pointing, the exhibit consisting of two matched pairs shall have preference. No date of birth is necessary, and the four fish need not be from the same brood.

The Breeders Classes are likely to become the most popular and most rewarding of Guppy entries at F. G. A. Shows.

BREEDERS CLASS POINTING

(Points are awarded to four fish as one exhibit)

MATCHING	20
BODY	20
FINNAGE	20
COLOUR	20
CONDITION & DEPORTMENT	20
TOTAL	100

F. G. A. STAR AWARD SYSTEM

COLOURED STARS

1st. **RED.** 2nd. **BLUE.** 3rd. **YELLOW.** 4th. **GREEN**

Number of first awards	Type of Guppy	Points	Star Award
1 - 4	Any Variety	75 or over	Silver Star Card
5th Card	Any Variety	75 or over	Silver Star Card and Badge.
6 - 9	Any Variety	80 or over	Silver Star Card
10th Card	Any Variety	80 or over	Gold Star Card and Badge.
11 - 15	5 Firsts with 5 different types. This can include types shown 1 to 10.	75	Gold Star Card
16 - 19	5 Firsts in Breeders Class of 4 Males, 4 Females, or 2 Matched pairs.	75	Gold Star Card
20th Card	5 Firsts in Breeders Class of 4 Males, 4 Females, or 2 Matched pairs.	75	Gold Star Card and Gold Diploma
21 - 29	Any Variety. 9 Firsts at Open Shows only.	75	Gold Star Card
30th Card	Any Variety 9 Firsts at Open Shows only.	75	F.G.A. Diploma & Gold Jewelled Badge.

SHOW GOVERNMENT for the FANCY GUPPY ASSOCIATION

1. **JUDGES** shall be approved by members of the **FANCY GUPPY ASSOCIATION**.
2. Other than the Show Secretary (or his deputies) **NO MEMBER** shall talk to or approach the Judge whilst judging is in progress, also Exhibitors are forbidden to touch any exhibit during the Show unless authorised to do so by the Show Secretary or the Official Judge. Any dispute arising at the Show may be investigated by the Judge(s) and the Show Secretary, and their decision shall be final. All exhibitors under these Rules shall be members of the F.G.A.
3. All Classes may be divided or amalgamated as entries warrant by the Show Secretary.
4. A **SILVER STAR** shall be awarded for single fish entries gaining a **FIRST AWARD** with a total of not less than 75 points. After an exhibitor has gained 5 **SILVER STARS** he will then be awarded a **SILVER BADGE**.
5. After an exhibitor has been awarded his **SILVER BADGE**, he will then have to gain 5 more single awards, with exhibits totalling not less than 80 points, to become eligible for his Gold Star and Gold Badge.
6. Gold Star holders will then have to gain a First Award with single exhibits in 5 Different Varieties with not less than 75 points. (This can include the Varieties shown upto his **GOLD STAR**.) On reaching his 5th Gold Star he will then have to gain 5 Firsts in a **BREEDERS CLASS** with not less than 75 points. On reaching his 10th **GOLD STAR** he shall then be eligible for an award of a **GOLD STAR DIPLOMA**.
7. On gaining his **GOLD STAR DIPLOMA** he will then have to gain 10 Firsts (any Variety) with single entries with not less than 75 points at **OPEN SHOWS ONLY** to become eligible for the major award of a **GOLD JEWELLED BADGE & DIPLOMA**.
8. A **BREEDERS CLASS** entry shall consist of 4 Males, 4 Females, or 2 Matched Pairs. In the event of a tie, the 2 Matched Pairs shall have the preference.

SHOW GOVERNMENT, continued

9. Entries in the Breeders Class will also be eligible to be entered in any single class, but a Breeders team will not be eligible for an award in this class unless the owner has attained his 5th **GOLD CARD**. Also a **GOLD CARD** holder entering single entries out of his Breeders team cannot be awarded any of his Firsts to be gained after his **GOLD STAR DIPLOMA**.
10. Each entry to be staged in approved 10-oz or 40-oz Standard Show Jars, that is to say one fish in one jar unless specifically stated otherwise by the Show Secretary. **NON OBSERVANCE** of this rule will result in the immediate disqualification of the particular entry contravening it.
11. Visiting Members shall be eligible for all awards.
12. Any matter not covered by the foregoing **SHOW RULES** shall be dealt with by the **AREA** Management Committee or the Judges and Standards Committee, as deemed suitable.

----O-O-O----

ASSOCIATION DIPLOMAS

Awarded at all F.G.A. Open Shows
for Best Fish in Show,
and Best Breeders Exhibit.

----O-O-O----

MIXED CLASSES

In mixed classes of F.G.A. and non-Members, **NO STAR AWARD** can be given to non-Members. If a non-Member wins a First with over 75 points, and a F.G.A. Member second, also with over 75 points, the Member will be awarded a **SILVER STAR**, or such other award as he would otherwise have gained. But non-Members will be awarded the F.G.A. Diploma for the Best Fish in Show, where gained.

MULTICOLOUR VEILTAIL

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Long Dorsal and Multicoloured Caudal.

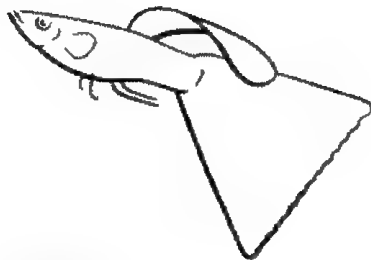
- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Length equal to body length, all possible depth.
- DORSAL.** Long, slim and tapering to a point.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with body, Dorsal and Caudal fins covered in varied bright colours. The colour may be self or multicolour.

HISTORY

This multicolour type of Veiltail arrived in this country from Australia about 1951, and was sent by a member and Judge of the G.B.S. who had emigrated to that country a short time previously. Fish was originally developed in America.

FANTAIL

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Long drooping Dorsal and Caudal fins.

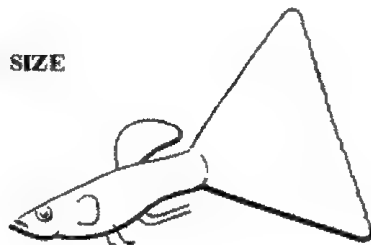
- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Length equal to body length. All possible depth. Both upper and lower margins straight. The rear margin to be slightly scalloped or waved.
- DORSAL.** Long, heavy and drooping over side of Caudal when fish is at rest.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with both Dorsal and Caudal brightly coloured. The colour may be self or multicolour, and should also appear on the body.

HISTORY

This type, developed by Paul Hahnel, has won world-wide fame, and is thought by many to be the greatest achievement in the Male Guppy form.

DELTA

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Short stubby Dorsal, Triangular Caudal

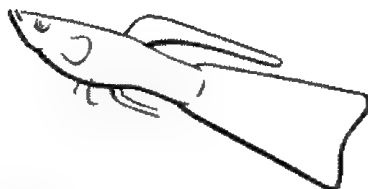
- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** To be in shape as an equilateral triangle, with all margins as straight as possible, and corners only very slightly rounded.
- DORSAL.** Short, stubby, carried erect, and not to extend beyond the Caudal peduncle.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with both Dorsal and Caudal brightly coloured. The colour may be self or multicolour, and should also appear on the body.

HISTORY

This type was developed in America. Those specimens with brilliant self-coloured Caudals are most sought after both in America and Germany today.

FLAGTAIL

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Long tapering Dorsal and Caudal fins.

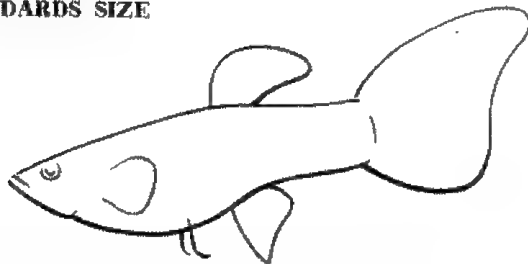
- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Length equal to body length. Depth at widest part equal to half Caudal length.
- DORSAL.** Long and tapering to a point.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with both Dorsal and Caudal brightly coloured. The colour may be self or multicolour, and should also appear on the body.

HISTORY

The Flagtail was developed by Paul Hahnel, and was the forerunner of his now famous Fantail, in the development of which it is assumed to have played a major role.

SUPERBA FEMALE

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Large elongated Caudal and Dorsal.

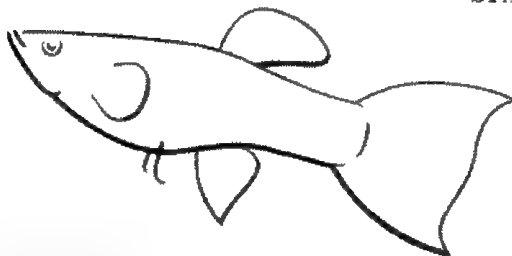
- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Having a pointed extension along the upper margin, and in depth much greater than Original Female.
- DORSAL.** Elongated and backswept, and having a pointed tip.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with Caudal and Dorsal completely coloured, self or multicolour.

HISTORY

This particular type was developed in America, along with other broadtail types. At the time of its introduction it was considered by many to be the finest and most showy of all females.

SCALLOPTAIL FEMALE

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics;- Scalloped end of Caudal fin.

- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Having pointed extensions at upper and lower margins and in depth much greater than Original Female.
- DORSAL.** Elongated and backswept, and having a pointed tip.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with Caudal and Dorsal completely coloured, self or multicolour.

HISTORY

This type of Female, like the Superba, was developed in America, as an accessory to the production of a strain of colourful broadtail Males. One wonders what its name might have been if it had appeared before the Superba Female.

ORIGINAL FEMALE

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Short Dorsal, rounded Caudal

- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** To be as large and as round as possible.
- DORSAL.** Short upright shape as shown, but variable according to Variety.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour. Caudal and Dorsal fins may be clear, gold, black, or highly coloured, according to Variety, and these 4 characteristics to have equal pointing value.

HISTORY

This type, with clear and rounded Caudal and Dorsal fins, was the original wild type of Grey Female. As the Swordtails, Black and Gold Veiltail and some other Varieties were developed, the Female remained unaltered in finnage shape, which was also carried into the recessive basic body colours of Gold, Goldlaced and Albino.

WEDGETAIL FEMALE

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Wedge-shaped Caudal fin, Dorsal and Anal fins extended and pointed.

- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** Broad, straight-edged, and slightly longer in the upper part.
- DORSAL.** Elongated and backswept.
- COLOUR.** Any basic body colour, with Caudal and Dorsal completely coloured, self or multicolour.

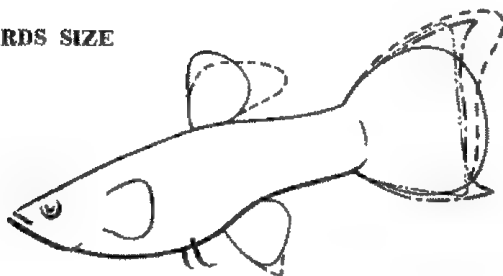
HISTORY

This type crops up occasionally in some strains of American broadtail Males, and is usually recognised as being the Female which, when suitably mated, produces all-red male progeny. The fins are usually smoky-grey, with sometimes a fine line of pale colour in the upper and lower margins of the Caudal.

COLOURED FEMALES

(ALL FINNAGE SHAPES)

STANDARDS SIZE



SHAPE AS SHOWN

Chief Characteristics:- Brightly coloured fins

- BODY.** Standards length and depth, or larger.
- CAUDAL.** All possible length and depth. Any finnage shape.
- DORSAL.** All possible length and depth. Any finnage shape.
- COLOUR.** Should show 3 to 5 colours, or attractive colour pattern on Caudal and Dorsal. Colour on the body may be in any basic body colour. Self colour permitted.

COMMENT

Entries in this class should be Females bred and selected for Colour, and not just Females barred from other classes. Gold or black-finned Females may be admitted as selfs, and will be judged on **AREA** and **INTENSITY** of Colour. Finnacle will be judged for size, against body size, and for condition.

A. G. A. FANCY GUPPY STANDARDS

As the F.G.A. have adopted the American Guppy Association Standards for International Shows, as a first step towards the establishment of a world-wide Standard, a copy of their Standards is included in this Handbook, by courtesy of the American Guppy Association.

Also enclosed is a copy of the A.G.A. Official Pointing System, which is universally used for single fish, Males or Females, and also for Pairs, or so many of a kind. It is usual at International Shows for 3 matched Males to constitute an entry. No Females are shown.

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